



# LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST ENVIRONMENTAL NEWSLETTER

September, 1991

## ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

The purpose of the "Environmental Newsletter" is to encourage public input to on going environmental analyses and provide notification of completed analyses in Los Padres National Forest. The newsletter is issued every other month and is intended to complement public participation efforts initiated by the Forest Supervisor or District Rangers for specific projects.

The newsletter includes the name, a brief explanation and location of each project, the responsible Forest Service office, and the date the project was first addressed in the newsletter. The analyses are listed by county and by categories which correspond to the environmental analysis process.

### Environmental Analyses Being Scoped

This section includes analyses for which public input is being or is about to be solicited.

### Environmental Analyses Completed

This section includes those analyses which have been "categorically excluded" from documentation in an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and which have culminated in the preparation of a Decision Memo. The Decision Memo contains the responsible forest officer's explanation of his/her decision to exclude a proposed action from documentation in an EA or EIS.

### Environmental Analyses Documented

This section addresses recently completed EA's and Draft and Final EIS's.

### Environmental Analyses in Progress

This section includes projects currently under study.

**For further information regarding the environmental analyses described, opportunities for public participation, or the availability of documents, please contact the Forest Service office indicated under the project description. Addresses and telephone numbers are listed at the end of the newsletter. For information on the environmental analysis process contact Gerry Little or Becky Bittner of the Planning Staff, Forest Supervisor's Office.**

## MONTEREY COUNTY

**Environmental Analyses Being Scoped** None.

**Environmental Analyses Completed** None.

**Environmental Analyses Documented** None.

### Environmental Analyses In Progress

*Pacific Unified School District.* Study to determine the location of permanent school structures along the Big Sur Coast between the Monterey/San Luis Obispo County line and Burnes Creek. T.23 S., R.5 E., Section 19, MDM. Monterey District - November, 1989.

*Optical Interferometer.* Analysis of a U.S. Naval Observatory proposal to place an electronic amplification (navigational) device and associated facilities along Anderson Peak Ridge or Chews Ridge. T.20 S., R.3 E., MDM. The Navy is preparing a Draft Environmental Impact Statement. For further information contact: Commanding Officer, Western Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Attn: Patricia Duff, Code 1831, POB 727, San Bruno, CA, 94066. Monterey District - November, 1989.

*Nacimiento Creek Soil and Water Rehabilitation.* Analysis of a proposal to rehabilitate old rutted non-system roads near Nacimiento Creek. T.22 S., R.5 E., Sections 15 and 16, MDM. Monterey District - September, 1990.

## SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

**Environmental Analyses Being Scoped** None.

**Environmental Analyses Completed** None.

**Environmental Analyses Documented** None.

### Environmental Analyses in Progress

*Rockfront Allotment Management Plan.* Analysis of the Rockfront Grazing Allotment Management Plan (AMP) to insure that it is in compliance with the Forest Plan and that all revisions and reissuance of the permit are in compliance with NEPA. T.32 S., R.17 E., MDM. Santa Lucia District - January, 1991.

*Wild Horse Management Plan Revision.* Review of the current Wild Horse Management Plan, approved in 1980, to see if revisions are needed. T.29 S., R.15 E., MDM. Santa Lucia District - January, 1991.

*Black Mountain Fuels Management Plan.* Analysis to determine appropriate treatment, including prescribed burning, of 35,000 acres in the Black Mountain area. T.29 S., R.15 E., MDM. Santa Lucia District - May, 1990.

*Big Rocks Fuels Management Plan.* Analysis to determine appropriate treatment of 29,000 acres located north and east of Twitchell Reservoir. T.32 S., R.16 and 17 E., MDM. Santa Lucia District - July, 1989.

*Santa Lucia District Trails Management Plan.* Analysis of current and future management of the trail system in the San Luis Obispo County portion of the Forest. A Draft Environmental Impact Statement is being prepared. Santa Lucia District - July, 1990.

*Garcin Land Exchange.* Analysis of a proposal to consolidate land ownership by exchanging parcels of privately-owned land for nearby National Forest land in the vicinity of Highway 166. T.12 N., R.30 and 31 W., SBBM, and T.32 S., R.17 E., MDM. Santa Lucia District - March, 1988.

## **SANTA BARBARA COUNTY**

### **Environmental Analyses Being Scoped**

*Santa Ynez Valley Arabian Horse Assn Competitive Ride.* Analysis of a proposal to hold a recreational riding event on approximately fifty miles of trail and roads within the Santa Ynez River watershed. The ride is proposed for November 2-3, 1991, and would be limited to seventy to eighty riders. Public comments should be submitted to Marian Kadota no later than September 16, 1991. Santa Barbara Ranger District - September, 1991.

*Los Angeles Orienteering Club Event.* Analysis of a proposal to hold an orienteering event off East Camino Cielo in an area covering approximately four hundred acres. T.5 N., R.27 W., Sections 18, 19, 20, and T.5 N., R.28 W., Section 24, SBBM. The event is proposed for October 26, 1991 and would have twenty-five to thirty participants. Public comments should be submitted to Marian Kadota no later than September 16, 1991. Santa Barbara Ranger District - September, 1991.

*Nine Mile Ultra Run.* Analysis of a proposal to hold a recreational run on 17.5 miles of Santa Barbara front country trails from the Jesusita Trail to the Romero Canyon Trail. The event is proposed for November 30, 1991 and would allow a maximum of one hundred runners. T.4 N., R.23 and 27 W., SBBM. Public comments should be submitted to Marian Kadota no later than October 1, 1991. Santa Barbara Ranger District - September, 1991.

*Los Prietos Boys Camp Improvements.* Analysis of proposal by the County of Santa Barbara to improve and relocate certain facilities at the Los Prietos Boy's Camp within the existing special use permit boundary. T.5 N., R.28 W., SBBM. Public scoping will begin sometime this summer. Santa Barbara Ranger District - July, 1991.

*Broadcast Peak Electronic Site Management Plan.* Analysis for the Broadcast Peak Electronic Site Management Plan will take place during 1991-92. T.5 N., R.29 W., SBBM. Public scoping will begin sometime this summer. Santa Barbara Ranger District - July, 1991.

*Santa Cruz Vegetation Management Project.* Analysis of a proposed vegetation management project encompassing approximately 15,000 acres northeast of Lake Cachuma between Happy Canyon and Santa Cruz Creek. T.6 and 7 N., R.28 W., SBBM. The objectives are to reduce fuel loading and wildfire acreage, improve water quality and quantity, increase wildlife habitat capability, and protect the San Rafael Wilderness from high risk fire occurrence zones associated with the Lake Cachuma Recreation Area. The primary tool to achieve these results will be prescribed fire. Scoping will begin sometime this autumn. Questions regarding this project should be directed to District Ranger Patrick Pontes. Santa Barbara District - September, 1989.

**Environmental Analyses Completed** **None.**

**Environmental Analyses Documented** **None.**

### **Environmental Analyses in Progress**

*Sisquoc Allotment Management Plan.* Analysis of the Sisquoc Grazing Allotment Management Plan (AMP) to ensure that it is in compliance with the Forest Plan and that all revisions and reissuance of the permit are in compliance with NEPA. T.9 N., R.29 W., SBBM. Santa Lucia District - January, 1991.

*Aliso Trail Re-Route.* Analysis of a proposal to re-route a three to four mile section of the trail accessing McPherson Peak. T.10 N., R.27 W., Sections 31, 32 and 33; T.9 N., R.27 W., Section 6, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - November, 1990.

*Santa Barbara Trail Re-Route.* Analysis of a proposal to re-route a one mile section of the Santa Barbara Trail in the Dick Smith Wilderness. T.7 N., R.26 W., Sections 1 and 2, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - November, 1990.

*Falls Trail Reroute.* Analysis of a proposal to re-route the Falls Trail in the San Rafael Wilderness. T.7 and 8 N., R.27 W., SBBM. Santa Lucia District - May, 1989.

*Upper Oso Parking Lot Rehabilitation and Trailhead Development.* Analysis to determine appropriate parking and trailhead design to meet the needs of various user groups. T.6 N., R.27 W., Section 31, SBBM. Santa Barbara District - May, 1990.

*Garcin Land Exchange.* Analysis of a proposal to consolidate land ownership by exchanging parcels of privately-owned land for nearby National Forest land in the vicinity of Highway 166. T.12 N., R.30 and 31 W., SBBM, and T.32 S., R.17 E., MDM. Santa Lucia District - March, 1988.

### **Environmental Analyses Terminated**

*Southern California Edison 66kv Powerline.* Southern California Edison has withdrawn its application for a Special Use Permit to construct a transmission line on National Forest lands. The Forest Service has discontinued its involvement in this project. For further information, contact Alice McCurdy, Santa Barbara County Resource Management Department, 805-568-2020, or Marian Kadota, Santa Barbara Ranger District. Santa Barbara District - March, 1988.

## **KERN COUNTY**

### **Environmental Analyses Being Scoped**

*Mountain Bike Races.* Analysis of a proposal to conduct two mountain bicycle races on existing trails near Tecuya Mountain and O'Neil Park north of Frazier Park during the Christo Umbrella Project. T.9 N., R.20 W., Sections 22, 23, 24, 26, 27 and 35, SBBM; and T.9 N., R.19 W., Sections 30 and 31. SBBM. Mount Pinos District - September, 1991.

### **Environmental Analyses Completed**

**None.**

### **Environmental Analyses Documented**

**None.**

### **Environmental Analyses in Progress**

*Y Thinning.* Analysis of proposal to thin approximately five acres of the Penny Pines plantation at the Mil Potrero Highway ("Y") intersection. T.9 N., R.21 W., Section 26, SBBM. The purpose of the thinning is to promote the health, vigor and survival of the trees. Mount Pinos District - March, 1991.

*Mount Pinos Prescribed Burn.* Analysis to determine appropriate treatment of 800 acres of decadent chaparral to improve deer herd habitat on Mount Pinos. T.9 N., R.21 W., SBBM. Mount Pinos District - September, 1990.

## **VENTURA COUNTY**

### **Environmental Analyses Being Scoped**

*Lockwood Valley OHV Trail Rehabilitation.* Proposal to rehabilitate unauthorized off-highway vehicle trails in Lockwood Valley. T.8 N., R.20 W., Sections 30 and 31, SBBM. Would include ripping, seeding, mulching, and limited fencing of ten to fifteen acres in order to minimize erosion, reduce disturbance to wildlife and improve the appearance of a sixty-seven acre area. Comments should be submitted to Kim Jordan by September 20, 1991. Mount Pinos District - September, 1991.

### **Environmental Analyses Completed**

*Reyes Creek Fishing Access.* The District Ranger has approved plans to modify a campsite to provide for full accessibility and to build a ramp and walkway to improve fishing opportunities for persons with disabilities. T.7 N., R.23 W., Section 27, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - May, 1991.

*Reyes Creek Trailhead.* The District Ranger has approved plans to construct improvements at the Piedra Blanca (22W03) trailhead at Reyes Creek including minor grading work, paving of the access road and parking area, and construction of a restroom. T.7 N., R.19 W., Section 27, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - January, 1991.

*Condor Feeding Platform.* A Decision Memo was signed on February 15, 1991 approving a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service request to construct a condor feeding platform west of the Topa Topa mountains. T.5 N., R.21 W., Section 17, SBBM. Ojai District - September, 1991. (This notice should have appeared in the March 1991 newsletter.)

*Condor Holding Facility.* A Decision Memo was signed on August 8, 1991 approving a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service request to construct a temporary condor holding facility near Hopper Mountain. T.5 N., R.19 W., Section 22, SBBM. The facility will consist of a cage structure on a 128 square foot base. Ojai District - September, 1991.

*Condor Release Site.* A Decision Memo was signed on August 29, 1991 approving a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service request to construct a condor release site northwest of Hopper Mountain near Arundell Canyon in the Sespe Condor Sanctuary. T.5 N., R.19 W., Section 15, SBBM. The dimensions of the temporary structure would be approximately 16'x8'x6'. Ojai District - September, 1991.

*Watershed Rehabilitation Projects.* A Decision Memo was signed on August 23, 1991 approving three small scale watershed projects to improve watershed and visual quality values. Project #1 - rip compacted soils and plant native vegetation on twelve acres at the old Ortega trailhead on Highway 33, T.5 N., R.23 W., Section 15, SBBM. Project #2 - rip compacted soils and plant native vegetation on fifteen acres at Pine Mountain, T.6 N., R.23 W., Section 4, SBBM. Project #3 - install a roadside drain along Sespe Oil Field Road, T.5 N., R.19 W., Section 33, SBBM. Ojai District - September, 1991.

### **Environmental Analyses Documented**

**None.**

### **Environmental Analyses in Progress**

*Removal of Aircraft Wreckage.* Analysis of a proposal by Wreckfinders aircraft salvage company to remove debris from several old crash sites on National Forest lands district-wide. Ojai District - September, 1991.

*Construction of Powerlines in Sespe Oil Field.* Analysis of proposal to construct powerlines to five existing drill sites in the Sespe oil field. Total length would be approximately 1/2 mile. T.5 N., R.19 W., SBBM. The purpose is to convert the power source at the sites from diesel engine to electricity in order to improve air quality. Ojai District - July, 1991.

*Smith Fork/Snowy Trail Reroute.* Analysis of a proposal to re-route a section of the trail in conjunction with a wildlife habitat enhancement project in the Smith Fork area. T.7 N., R.19 W., Section 10, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - July, 1989.

*Goldhill/Alamo Event Analysis.* Analysis of a proposal to hold competitive motorized events on roads and OHV routes in the Goldhill, Frazier Mountain, Alamo Mountain areas. Mount Pinos District - July, 1990.

*Department of Water Resources Stream Gauge.* Analysis of a proposal to locate a stream gauge station near Hardluck Campground to replace a gauge station currently in Piru Gorge. T.7 N., R.19 W., Section 13, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - March, 1990.

*Goldhill Campground and Staging Area Development.* Development of a conceptual plan for improving facilities at the campground and on an adjacent 80 acres purchased for OHV use with greensticker funds. T.7 N., R.20 W., Sections 6 & 18, SBBM. Includes campsites, OHV "play area", restrooms, parking. Mount Pinos District - March, 1990.

*Goldhill to Hungry Valley OHV Trail.* Analysis to determine if a route between Goldhill Campground and Hungry Valley State Vehicle Recreation Area is acceptable, and where the route might be. T.7 N., R.20 W., Sections 3-7, SBBM. The goal is to provide a route for motorcycles and ATV's so that they do not have to operate on the paved Goldhill Road. Mount Pinos District - March, 1990.

*Yellow Jacket OHV Trail Re-Route and Expansion.* Analysis of a proposal to re-route the Yellow Jacket Trail around four meadow areas and rehabilitate the impacts. T.7 N., R.21 W., Sections 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, SBBM. Mount Pinos District - March, 1990.

*Fishbowls Trail Re-Route.* Analysis of proposal to re-route a section of the Fishbowls Trail to avoid private land and the low lying area along Piru Creek. T.6 N., R.21 W., Sections 4, 8, 9, SBBM. The project might include improvement of the loop experience with Cedar Creek Trail, and construction of an improved trailhead to serve both trails. Mount Pinos District - March, 1990.

*Recreational Shooting Policy Review.* District-wide review of existing shooting patterns and closures to determine if changes should be made, with focus on the Highway 33 corridor. Ojai District - May, 1989.

#### **Environmental Analyses Terminated**

*Piru Creek Dredging Operation.* The proponent has withdrawn his proposal for a dredging operation in Piru Creek south of Hardluck Campground. The analysis has been discontinued. Mount Pinos District - May, 1991.

## **RESPONSIBLE OFFICES**

### **Los Padres National Forest**

Mark Madrid - Deputy Forest Supervisor  
6144 Calle Real  
Goleta, CA 93117  
(805) 683-6711

### **Monterey District**

Kathleen Jordan - District Ranger  
406 S. Mildred  
King City, CA 93930  
(408) 385-5434

### **Santa Lucia District**

Acting District Ranger  
1616 N. Carlotti Drive  
Santa Maria, CA 93454  
(805) 925-9538

### **Santa Barbara District**

Patrick Pontes - District Ranger  
Star Route  
Santa Barbara, CA 93105  
(805) 967-3481

### **Ojai District**

Ron Bassett - District Ranger  
1190 E. Ojai Avenue  
Ojai, CA 93023  
(805) 646-4348

### **Mount Pinos District**

Trinidad Juarez - District Ranger  
Star Route, Box 400  
Frazier Park, CA 93225  
(805) 245-3731

**Last Environmental Newsletter issued: July, 1991.**

**For inquiries regarding distribution of this newsletter, please contact Kathy Good in the Forest Supervisor's Office.**